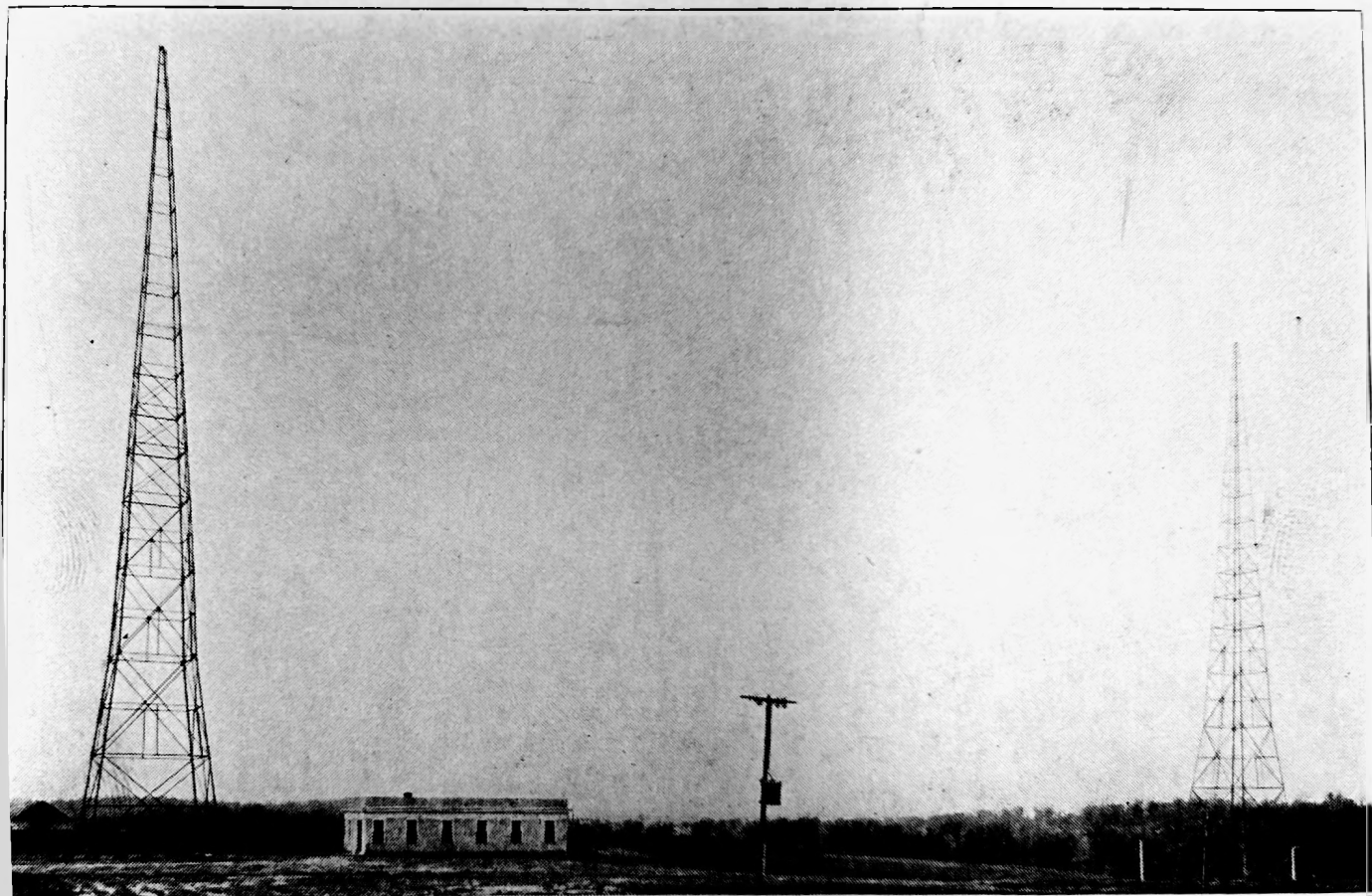


THE LIBRARY OVER THE RADIO

SPECIMEN TALKS
ON
LIBRARY AND HOME SERVICE
Broadcasted Over the "Voice of St. Louis"
(STATION KMOX)



BY
MEMBERS OF THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
1927

THE LIBRARY OVER THE RADIO

SPECIMEN TALKS

On

LIBRARY AND HOME SERVICE

Broadcasted Over "The Voice of St. Louis"
(STATION KMOX)



PUBLIC LIBRARY

ST. LOUIS

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By

MEMBERS OF THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
STAFF

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1927

THE LIBRARY OVER THE RADIO

The following are representative talks selected from those broadcasted weekly over KMOX, "The Voice of St. Louis," during the year 1926-'27. The talks were prepared and given by members of the Public Library staff who volunteered for the purpose. Besides those printed here, they included numerous excellent reviews of individual books, but the more general talks have been selected for reproduction as presenting a handy manual of library radio-publicity and as not uninteresting reading for a public possibly interested in extremely brief expositions of the services rendered by books and libraries. A complete list of the talks precedes the selections.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK.

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THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

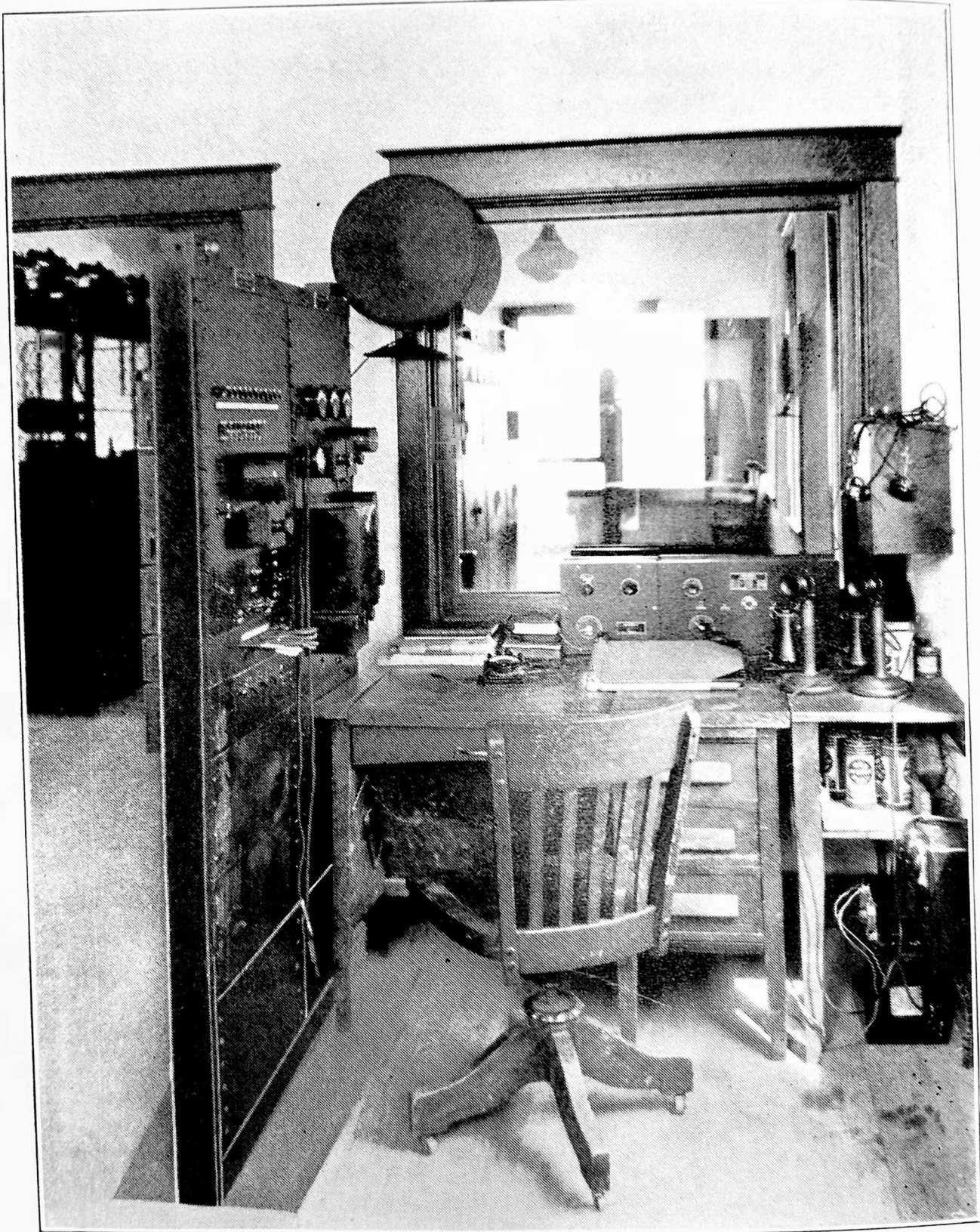
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LIBRARY RADIO TALKS, STATION KMOX

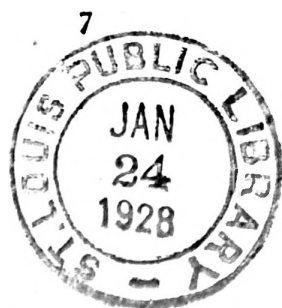
*Titles in full-face type are those of
the talks printed herewith in full.*

- Sept. 7—Reluctantly Told, by Jane Hillyer.....Jane D. Johns
 Sept. 10—Fifty Years of Progress of the St. Louis
 Public Library.....C. H. Compton
 Sept. 14—Ranching with Roosevelt, by L. A. Lang.....C. H. Compton
 Sept. 17—**Readers' Advisory Service.** (See page 7).....Margery Doud
 Sept. 21—Arcturus Adventure, by William Beebe.....Mrs. G. G. Drury
 Sept. 24—**Work for the Blind.** (See page 10).....E. F. Endicott
 Sept. 28—Recent Negro Poetry.....Margery Doud
 Oct. 1—**Assistance Given to Women's Clubs by the Reference Depart-**
 ment. (See page 12).....Margaret L. Pilcher
 Oct. 5—I'll Never Move Again, by Fitzhugh Green.....Mrs. J. S. McNiece
 Oct. 8—**Sherman Park Branch, Under a Gymnasium and Over a**
 Swimming Pool, in the Largest Community Centre in the U. S. (See
 page 15).....Ruth Robi
 Oct. 12—Book of the Rogue, by J. L. French.....Leonard Balz
 Oct. 15—**The Missouri Library Commission.**
 (See page 19).....Jane Morey
 Oct. 19—Verdict of Bridlegoose, by Llewelyn Powys.....Jane D. Johns
 Oct. 22—**Music Collection of the Library**
 (See page 23).....Arthur E. Bostwick
 Oct. 26—Abraham Lincoln—The Prairie Years,
 by Carl Sandburg.....Mrs. G. G. Drury
 Oct. 29—**The Municipal Reference Library.**
 (See page 27).....Lucius H. Cannon
 Nov. 2—History of Philosophy, by Will Durant.....C. H. Compton
 Nov. 5—**Children's Book Week.** (See page 30).....Alice I. Hazeltine
 Nov. 9—Winners of the John Newberry Prize.....Alice I. Hazeltine
 Nov. 12—**Radio Through Books.** (See page 34).....Mary V. Roemer
 Nov. 16—Gifts of fortune, by H. M. Tomlinson.....Mrs. J. S. McNiece
 Nov. 19—**The Art Department.** (See page 39).....Antoinette Douglas
 Nov. 22—The Travel diary of a philosopher, by
 Count Hermann Keyserling.....Arthur E. Bostwick
 Nov. 27—Modern essay, by Samuel McChord Crothers.....Margery Doud
 Nov. 29—Adventures of a Younger Son, by Edw. J.
 Trelawny.....Leonard Balz
 Dec. 6—Life in Ancient East, by James Baikie.....Margaret L. Pilcher
 Dec. 13—The world and Henry Clissold,
 by H. G. Wells.....Bertha Doane
 Dec. 20—Romantic Comedians, by Ellen Glasgow.....Jane D. Johns
 Dec. 27—**Public Libraries in Missouri.** (See page 44).....C. H. Compton
 Jan. 3—Dark of the Moon, by Sara Teasdale.....Margery Doud
 Jan. 10—Hari, the jungle boy, and Kari, the elephant,
 by Mukerji.....Mrs. G. G. Drury
 Jan. 24—Art Through the Ages,
 by Helen Gardner.....Antoinette Douglas
 Jan. 31—**Survey of Libraries in the United States.**
 (See page 48).....Arthur E. Bostwick
 Feb. 7—George Washington: the image and the man,
 by W. E. Woodward.....Bertha Doane

- Feb. 14—The house on the main road.....Margaret L. Pilcher
 Feb. 21—Through Many Windows,
 by Helen Woodward.....Mrs. J. S. McNiece
 Feb. 28—A Modern Symposium,
 by G. Lowes Dickinson.....Leonard Balz
 Mar. 7—Heaven Trees, by Stark Young.....Jane D. Johns
 Mar. 14—My African neighbors,
 by Hans Coudenhove.....Mrs. G. G. Drury
 Mar. 21—The bloom of Monticello, by
 Elizabeth Hatcher Sadler.....Margery Doud
 Mar. 28—Selected Poems of Carl Sandburg, edited by
 Rebecca West.....C. H. Compton
 Apr. 4—American Institute of Graphic Arts, Exhibit of Fifty Books
 of 1926 in Art Room of Library.....Antoinette Douglas
 Apr. 11—Sutter's Gold, by Blaise Centrar.....Bertha Doane
 Apr. 16—Why China Sees Red, by Putnam Weale.....Margaret L. Pilcher
 Apr. 25—The Dark Gentleman, by A. B. Stern.....Mrs. J. S. McNiece



Station KMOX, Voice of St. Louis, Central Board, Kirkwood, Mo.



READERS' ADVISORY SERVICE

By

MARGERY DOUD

A Readers' Advisory Service was established in the St. Louis Public Library in November 1925, with the desk of the Readers' Adviser in the Delivery Hall at the Main Library.

The establishment of a special Readers' Advisory Service in several of the larger libraries is one of the results of the American Library Association's program of Adult Education. As described in the tentative outline prepared by the Association's Commission on the Library and Adult Education:

"This service is distinctly educational and will usually take the form of planning for and recommending to the individual a short course of reading and study.

"There is a sharp distinction between the work of a readers' adviser and the work ordinarily done in reference and circulation departments. The adviser deliberately and carefully organizes reading courses suited to the needs of particular individuals, whereas the assistance given in reference and circulation departments is frequently hurried and impersonal, and is intended to meet the immediate need.

"This educational service of the library is different from that of other educational institutions in that it is entirely individual. It is based on the experience of librarians that in every community there are men and women who cannot or will not join study groups or classes but who will follow systematic courses of reading."

In St. Louis, advice in the matter of reading has always been given in departments of the library accessible to the public, and it is to be expected that it always will be. The appointment of a readers' adviser does not necessarily lessen the frequent requests for advice from readers who inquire of the assistant nearest at hand, but it does provide a definite person with whom a reader may consult, not once, but many times, when a particular course of study is to be followed.

The service is intended for all types of adult readers, and applicants for specially-prepared lists have varied from the older boy and girl who have had to leave school, and who are continuing their education through systematic reading, to the college graduate planning a trip abroad, and desiring information on the countries included in his itinerary.

Of the most interesting courses recently prepared, one is on the lives of great physicians, requested by a boy of seventeen who plans to enter medical school. Another on the history, customs and traditions of Mexico was prepared for a professional man who, each year, devotes all of his time for recreation reading to the study of one particular country.

On the whole, the majority of persons who ask for reading courses want general cultural books. They know, vaguely, the kind of thing they need, but are lost as to definite titles or even subjects.

The chief difference between the usual list prepared by the library and that prepared by the readers' adviser is that the first is a reading list *on a particular subject*, while the second is a reading list especially prepared *for a particular individual*, after the readers' adviser has learned as much as possible about that individual's education, aims and reading capacity. A reader's adviser must be prepared to recommend books on the same subject to men and women who differ vastly in ability, education and purpose.

In St. Louis the work of the Readers' Advisory Service is combined with that of the main Information Desk and the combination yields interesting results. The readers' adviser is very much in the path of library borrowers, and is thus able to give advisory assistance to many persons not formally requesting it.

As another phase of adult education, the American Library Association is publishing a series of "Reading with a Purpose" courses. Each course consists of a brief introduction, prepared by a specialist in the subject, with a

short list of books recommended for consecutive reading. These courses are for sale at cost price, ten cents each, at the main library and all branches, and the books recommended are in the circulation book collection.

A few of the most popular courses are:

Ten pivotal figures of history, by Ambrose Vernon.

Some great American books, by Dallas Lore Sharp.

Philosophy, by Alexander Meiklejohn.

English literature, by W. N. C. Carlton.

WORK WITH THE BLIND

By

EDWARD F. ENDICOTT

One of the distressing problems confronting the public today is the proper care and education of the blind. The number of persons so afflicted in the city of St. Louis is estimated at 700 and in the state at 6,500. These figures represent those who are classified as partially and totally blind.

Many experiments have been made and large sums of money have been expended in the hope of finding some useful occupation suitable to the sightless and sufficiently remunerative to relieve the taxpayers of the burden of annual appropriations for their use.

It seems that the first step in the direction of the care of the blind should be towards education. Schools for the blind have been established in nearly all states, and the work of education has been given a strong impetus. But school-room instruction has always been deficient in the practical experiences of life and nowhere has there been a more striking failure in this respect than in the education of the blind. Recognizing such need, schools of vocational training have been formed, but the choice of occupations has been unfortunate and the solution of the problem seems to be remote as ever.

Whatever may be the thought of others, it cannot be denied that the general education of the blind along the line adopted by schools and colleges will do much to fit them better to grapple with the problems of life and to earn a modest return for their mental and physical labors that will do much toward making them independent of charitable aids and reduce in large measure the number of

public mendicants. It has been said that the purpose of education is accomplished when there has been instilled into the mind of the student a desire to pursue intellectual activity. It might be added, of course, that there must be facilities at hand to enable the aspiring student to gratify his ambitions.

To thus encourage such activities, the public library of this city has established a department for the blind, organized as a separate endeavor in 1924, under the charge and direction of Mr. E. F. Endicott, himself totally blind. Much good work has been accomplished in the matter of increasing the circulation of books of general interest among the blind.

By means of a system of raised dots, ranging from one to six in number, a complete alphabet has been arranged. This system is known as Braille system, and by its means the blind, who have learned its use, may hold converse "with the mighty minds of old." The total number of volumes in this department has increased from 360 in 1924 to 1,972 in 1926, and the circulation has increased from less than one hundred volumes in 1924 to over 7,000 volumes in 1926. The area embraced is not confined to St. Louis, nor indeed to the state of Missouri, but includes the entire West, as there is but one free circulating library for the blind west of St. Louis, at Sacramento, California. This wide distribution has been made possible by the extension of the Federal franking system to include free reading matter for the blind and makes the sending as well as the return free of postage. The size and bulkiness of the volumes, together with the expense of stereotyping, constitute real drawbacks, both in procuring and circulating the volumes. But our difficulties have in some measure been overcome through the librarian, who has presented the needs of the blind colony in this respect to the Library Board who have whole-heartedly cooperated in every endeavor.

SERVICE TO CLUB WOMEN IN THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

By

MARGARET L. PILCHER

There are some people to whom books and booklore are the bread-and-butter things of life, and some to whom they are the dessert. Perhaps librarians might be said to belong in the first class, and certainly the second class would include the busy housewife with many claims upon her time and thought, who finds herself often in the position where her opportunity to read and enjoy good books, or to pursue any systematic study, is reduced to a small margin of time indeed.

In serving these busy women who thru the medium of organized clubs, meeting once or twice a month, are studying and reading together, the Library finds a field of work which is important from the standpoint of reference work.

The Reference Department has many facilities which are particularly of service to club women. First of all there is material to assist in the assembling of a program for the year's study. We do not make programs for clubs. We feel that this work can be done more satisfactorily by committees of the clubs who are familiar with the tastes and personalities of their members, but we invite these program committees to meet in the Library, perhaps in some of our study rooms adapted for small group-meetings, and to consult with the Reference Department in the building of their program. We have a large collection of yearbooks of clubs, which we have indexed so that we can tell at once whether we have at hand a ready-made program which will serve as a base to build upon; and thru the subject-indexes to books in the library's collection, aided

by the guides to periodicals, we can usually in a short time assemble material for the committee to work with. For a club that wishes to follow a consistent course of study on a single subject, it is frequently possible to build a program that is comprehensive and well balanced by taking an authoritative book upon that subject and using its division of subject-matter as the skeleton or outline upon which to construct the program.

These facilities and methods of work are all known to the Reference staff, who are ready at any time to give what advice or assistance is needed in the selection and gathering of material for the committees' use. It is usually a help if the committee has decided upon the type of work to be undertaken by the club—whether it is to be a unified study of one subject, or a miscellaneous program; but if the committee has no formulated preferences or opinions we can assist its members by placing before them lists of suggested topics from which to choose, with notes of the best authorities to be consulted on each. Such data are to be found in "The Bookman's Manual" or in Mrs. M. L. Becker's "Readers' Guide Book" and other tools of reference which the staff use.

It seems hardly necessary to speak of what the Reference Department has to offer to clubwomen in the writing of their papers, except to say that beside our own large reference collection of books, magazines and pamphlets, covering literally thousands of subjects, we draw upon the entire library collection for material.

So far, this discussion has been concerned with clubs in St. Louis or neighboring towns, but we are able to offer an extension of service which will include clubs in districts throughout the state as well. The state Federation of Women's Clubs has thru its Fine Arts Committee maintained what is called a Reciprocity Bureau. Federated Clubs from the entire state send in their programs and worth-while papers to this Bureau and have in return the privilege of

borrowing programs or papers by paying postage. This is more of an advantage to clubs in districts where there are no library facilities than to clubs in the cities. The usefulness of such a collection depends of course upon the manner in which the clubs contribute their papers and programs to its collection.

About a year and a half ago the Fine Arts Committee deposited this Reciprocity Bureau collection with the St. Louis Public Library, where its papers and programs have all been sorted, classified and indexed by the Reference Department, making the material accessible to women in St. Louis and to those thruout the state, since we have handled quantities of correspondence from clubwomen in rural districts of Missouri. When there is material in the Reciprocity Bureau file we will send this, but when there is none the Reference Department makes a brief list of several books on the subject with the suggestion that these books can be borrowed from the St. Louis Public Library by the clubwoman's local librarian, or by the woman herself direct from the Missouri Library Commission in Jefferson City. Altho this service has not been widely advertised the Reference Department has answered 74 such calls from clubwomen outside St. Louis since the Bureau deposited its collection here. The chairman of the Fine Arts Committee of the Federated Clubs for Missouri has asked me to say, for the benefit of club-members thruout the state, that a catalog of the Reciprocity Bureau collection will soon be placed in the hands of club secretaries, and that she desires the cooperation of all clubs in sending in programs and papers likely to aid or benefit other women who are finding enjoyment and profit in the work of their respective clubs.

We invite any clubwomen who are listening in on KMOX at this time to bring their club-work problems to the library, in person, if possible, or if not, by mail. We believe that in most instances we can be of service to you and that the meeting will be pleasant and profitable to us both.

UNDER A GYMNASIUM AND OVER A SWIMMING POOL

By
RUTH ROBI

How would you like to walk up a flight of stairs after a refreshing swim in a pool and find yourself in a large, bright and airy library? Or would you prefer to walk down a flight after a strenuous hour in a gymnasium and enter a comfortable room where you could rest and read as long as you desired? Or if the strenuous life does not appeal to you on a warm summer day, how would you enjoy stepping out of a branch library and finding yourself in the midst of a small park of twenty-six acres, with plenty of benches under large shade trees? If none of these suggestions appeals to you and makes you feel that you must lose no time in becoming acquainted with this most unusual and interesting library, come anyway and you cannot help being interested.

This library, the Sherman Park Branch, in the Sherman Park Community Center at Kingshighway and Easton Avenue, formerly the Christian Brothers' College, is entirely different from any of the other thirteen branches of the St. Louis Public Library. The Community Center, said to be the largest in the United States, is operated by the Park Department, and every recreational activity provided by the city, except golf, is carried on in the building and on the surrounding grounds. The library was asked to come into the Community House by Mr. Nelson Cunliff, the former Director of Public Welfare. He said it was his hope that those who enjoyed the sports and recreational facilities offered by the city would become readers, and conversely, that those who are readers would be introduced to the advantages and enjoyments of physical education. And this

is the way, to a great extent, that the experiment has actually worked out. The room was furnished by the Park Department, which now provides heat, light, and janitor service. The books and the librarians are supplied by the Public Library.

The Sherman Park Branch functions exactly like any other branch of the Public Library except that there are many interesting "extras" not found in the usual branch library. For instance, after walking through the park to the building, one finds when entering the front door, no trace whatever of a library. Instead, there is a very large and attractive lobby with pongee curtains at the many windows and invitingly furnished with comfortable wicker davenports and arm chairs upholstered in cretonne. The whole length of this room must be crossed before the library is finally seen and entered. For this reason some people who come to the building regularly, are surprised after several visits, to discover the library. There is also the erroneous impression among some people that the library is for children only. This is not at all true. One-half of the book collection is juvenile, but the other half is adult. There are books on every subject, just as there are in any other branch library, and any book that is wanted by a borrower and is not in the collection may be obtained for temporary use from the Central Library. And, as in other branches, a story hour for little children is conducted once a week.

The library room itself is most attractive with its green walls and many windows around three sides. Because this is the highest spot in the city, the view is splendid and the breeze all summer long is a rare treat.

Because of the library's unusual location in a community center, the people using the branch as well as the library staff are treated to much of interest and amusement not as a rule thought of in connection with any branch library. So some evening when you enter the front lobby, if you find a minstrel show in progress, don't be upset, but continue firm-

ly down the aisle (if you can find one) and go straight through to the library. And when you do get in there, should you hear a noise which closely resembles violent thunder, don't be disturbed—you'll soon become used to it, and besides it's only caused by the ladies' "gym" class directly overhead. And don't be shocked if you should look up from your book or magazine, and see a stalwart youth in an abbreviated "gym" suit peering through the glass doors. You might, perhaps, be surprised to learn that one of the unusual summer duties of the librarian was to be a judge in a bathing beauty contest conducted by the mothers' club which meets at the Center.

Despite all these unusual features, the Sherman Park Branch is very popular not only with the readers of the immediate neighborhood, but with those who come to the Center from distant parts of the city. A surprisingly large number of books has been issued each month, and last year (the first year of the Branch's existence) the turnover of the collection was twice as great as that of any other branch in the city. When the Branch opened, simultaneously with the Community Center in April 1925, very few believed that it would be used by such a large number of readers.

Although thousands of people from every part of St. Louis come to the Community Center each week, attracted by its many and varied activities, there are still many more thousands wholly unaware of its existence, or of the fact that the Public Library is here undertaking something never before attempted in St. Louis. So it may surprise some St. Louisans to learn for the first time something about their city which is known and of interest to the people of New England and even to those in Africa. Last September a newspaper in Boston with a world-wide circulation, wrote to ask the librarian of the Sherman Park Branch to write an article describing that most unusual and interesting library. Five months after the article was published,

an enthusiastic letter was received from a doctor, a former resident of St. Louis who is now in Portuguese West Africa, expressing his pleasure and satisfaction that the St. Louis Public Library was conducting such an interesting departure in library work.

The Sherman Park Branch is open every day, except Sunday, from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. We like to have visitors, whether they become permanent readers or not, so do come for a tour of inspection whether you live in San Francisco or New York, or merely just around the corner.

SERVICES OF THE MISSOURI LIBRARY COMMISSION TO RURAL DISTRICTS

By

JANE MOREY

Secretary of the Commission

In spite of the great development in libraries during the last fifty years, there are still fifty million and more people in the United States who are without public library service. Practically all towns and cities of ten thousand or more population have a public library, but our large rural population is only just beginning to receive any kind of book-service.

The farmer needs books much more than does the city-dweller who has the benefit of clubs, theaters, lectures and continuation schools, and yet this same city-dweller has, in addition to these and other educational advantages, the free use of a well-stocked public library.

It was a desire to remedy this condition and to put good books of study and recreation within the reach of everyone that led to the organization of traveling libraries. Missouri's public libraries do not reach more than half of the population of the state, so since its establishment in 1907, the Missouri Library Commission has been gradually increasing its services, extending them into every county in the state.

In 1925, three times as many books were sent to rural communities from the Capitol as were sent five years before, and the records so far this year indicate an increase of at least twenty-five per cent. over last year. Although it is impossible to ascertain the exact number of people using the books, a conservative estimate places the number at nearly 200,000.

The ambition of the Library Commission is to provide every resident of Missouri with books, either by aiding in the establishment of city and county libraries, or by direct service from the Commission. No matter how remote the district, nor how distant from a railroad a farmer may be, the State's books reach him by parcel post, freight or express.

Some of the calls come from one-room rural schools whose book collection consists of a few tattered supplementary readers. These receive a traveling library to be kept through the school year, and perhaps some stereoscopes and views to lend variety to the geography lesson.

It is the Commission's purpose to introduce these children to some of the many attractive, interesting juvenile books, realizing that a love of reading acquired during childhood will persist through life and not only form the basis of good education, but will develop within the individual the ability to use his leisure time to advantage—a very necessary thing for the farm boy and girl. And so we feel that the books sent to the rural schools are doing a valuable service.

Many requests for books come from public-minded farmers, clubwomen, ministers and teachers, who act as custodians of a traveling community library and who circulate the books among their neighbors. These libraries, which contain fifty to seventy-five well-selected books for children and adults, including both fiction and non-fiction, may be exchanged three or four times a year and so furnish good reading for an entire rural community; or they may supplement the small local collection of a library already established.

Perhaps the service most appreciated is that to the individual who needs information on a particular subject. It may be an Ozark farmer who is inquiring about goat-raising, an ex-service man at the state poultry experimentation station, or a home-maker who is redecorating her house. One

farmer's wife, the mother of three children, is most appreciative of the good books sent her family. "If it had not been for the Library Commission's books," she writes, "I could not have kept my boy contented on the farm." An invalid in the state is kept in reading material constantly. Another patron, who is blind, sends for books that may be read aloud to him. The boys who are making their own radio sets, after puzzling over some point send for help. One patron, past eighty years of age, had read "Pickwick Papers" when a boy, but had lost his copy years ago. Couldn't he borrow it so that he could re-read it?

To the clubwomen of the state, the Missouri Library Commission is of inestimable benefit. Outlines of study, copies of club programs from all over the state, and reference books on all possible subjects are sent to federated study clubs, to farm clubs, to missionary circles and to the leaders of boys' and girls' clubs. The request may be for a history of art or a program for that ever popular form of entertainment, the "pie-social." It may be for a collection of books on child welfare for a Parent-Teacher organization, or a recitation for the closing day of school. Whatever the request, every effort is made to answer it within the limits set by the legislative appropriation. Nor is recreational reading neglected. The best books of fiction, standard and recent, are available, as well as books of travel, biography, history, etc.

No state service, however, can take the place of local or county-wide service, and so the Library Commission is advocating the establishment of county libraries. A library supported by tax and supplying books to the whole county is the solution of the library problems of rural states such as Missouri, and though no such library has as yet been established in the state, two public libraries are receiving county support for rural service and several communities are working toward a county library. Some of these expect to vote on the matter next spring.

A complete county library system with a well-established library in every county, a branch library in every town and school, and a book truck to stop at every farmer's door with books; that is the goal toward which the Missouri Library Commission is working.

Library service from Jefferson City is limited, of course, to the residents of Missouri, but to those from other states who are listening, let me say that your own state in all probability is giving the same service either through a Library Commission, a state library, the Department of Education, or the State University. If you live in the country or in a town too small to support a public library, write to your state library for information about traveling library service. Missourians should write to the Missouri Library Commission, Jefferson City, Mo.

THE MUSIC COLLECTION

By

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK

Music is a language in itself. Perhaps it is our very best emotional language. It expresses joy, grief, horror, delight, as no words could. It is therefore proper that a library should include it. When everyone has been taught to read music, as we now teach everyone to read ordinary language, the necessity of doing this will be even more apparent.

The St. Louis Public Library has a music department, and it spends many hundreds of dollars annually in buying music.

After twelve years of steady growth, this collection now merits the attention and use of all music lovers. It contains many imported items difficult to obtain in this country. In gathering it the needs and desires of several different classes have been considered. (1) the student of theory, (2) the practical teacher, (3) the performer, organist or member of an orchestra, (4) the beginner, and (5) the ordinary amateur, especially those who like to read music in the same way and for the same purpose as they read printed books.

The collection is not solely for use and study in the library, as is the case with some other collections. Every piece may be taken home, and a large part is shelved at the end of the Open Shelf Room where it is easily accessible to all. There is a full card-catalogue, and where pieces by different authors are in the same volume, each is indexed separately.

The collection includes piano music for two hands and four hands (one and two pianos), vocal solos and duets with piano accompaniment, part songs, recitations with

musical accompaniment, vocal scores of operas, oratorios and cantatas with piano accompaniment, violin and violoncello solos with piano, chamber music (trios, quatuors, quintets, etc.), kinder-symphonies, scores for large and small orchestra, with parts; and miniature scores.

We have been repeatedly told by musicians that material available here would be difficult to get anywhere in the vicinity, by either purchase or loan, and surprise is expressed that the resources of the collection are not more generally known. Our music circulation last year was 4,866. It ought to be many times that.

We have all the standard authors, of course. Such well-known writers of music as Beethoven, Haydn, and Mozart, among the Germans, Verdi, Bellini and Donizetti among the writers of Italian opera, Berlioz, Massenet, Gounod, etc. among the French, but in addition, we have modern authors whose names are not as familiar and whose works you might try perhaps to buy in vain at the ordinary music store. Such Belgian writers as Blockx and Jongen; Danes like Heise and Hamerik; Finns like Palmgren; Germans like Korngold and Weissmann; Italians like Casella and Malipiero; the Japanese composers Tanimura and Yamada; the Norwegians, Cleve and Schjeldemp; the Polish composer, Szymanowski; the Roumanian, Enesco; and South Americans like Gornez and Carreho.

Such composers as these, one who wishes to keep abreast of what is being done by modern musicians can not afford to neglect. We invite you to come to the Library and look at their works. They may all be taken home like ordinary books if you desire them. When the work is for more than one instrument, we have an instrumental part for each, and the parts are fastened together and circulated as a unit. They may be taken apart at home so that the player of each instrument may have one for his own use. When they are returned to the Library, they are fastened together again.

Our collection is used by scholars and accomplished musicians, but we also buy music for the beginner and for those who are unskilled in music technique. Simple and easy music may also be good music; nearly all great composers have written easy pieces. Schumann's "Album for the Young" will occur to anyone.

You may be interested to know for what purpose our music is used. It is frequently taken out, as it were, on approval to see whether the reader likes it sufficiently to buy. Or it may be taken because a particular composition may be given here at some concert, or a student takes it to memorize because it is available nowhere else in town. Then there are the large number of users who take it out because they are music lovers but can not afford a large collection of their own. One boy of fourteen has taken out every opera score contained in our collection. Many readers use the music in the Library Building and make manuscript copies of such passages as they wish to use at home.

We make a point of providing the selections rendered by the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and in addition we are cooperating with it by making a collection of books for those interested in the Children's Concerts given by the Orchestra.

Our music for small orchestra, about 20 pieces, is used freely by the moving-picture theatres and other places of entertainment.

We also make a point of considering special seasons and holidays. We have, for instance, a very good collection of Christmas carols, including very ancient as well as very modern examples and in French and German as well as English. In addition we have organ music for this occasion as well as other religious festivals. We also make a specialty of folk-songs and dances and of dance music, both classic and modern.

Besides ordinary music, we have also music in braille type for the use of the blind. This will be found in the room devoted to blind readers on the ground floor of the Library and is not shelved with the other music in the Open Shelf Room and the adjoining section of the stack.

The Library is purchasing music every few days, and you will find in our *Monthly Bulletin*, lists of what we are buying in this way. There is a special music catalogue at the north end of the Open Shelf Room, which makes it easy to find any required piece. Although we have been gathering this collection for so many years, we find to our surprise that many citizens of St. Louis do not know of it. If there is anyone who hears me this afternoon who has not looked it over and made use of it, I trust that he will call at the Library at the earliest opportunity and satisfy himself that we are treating music precisely as we treat literature—buying it freely, binding it in usable shape, and cataloguing it for the benefit of music lovers.

We shall hope to see you.

THE MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

By

LUCIUS H. CANNON

The Municipal Reference Library at 408 City Hall is a Branch of the St. Louis Public Library. Pursuant to a concurrent resolution of the Municipal Assembly, passed Jan. 27, 1911, requesting the Public Library to establish a library in the City Hall for purposes of municipal information and research, this library was opened on Oct. 23, 1911. It has widened its services beyond the original purposes for which it was established. It not only furnishes information to the Board of Aldermen and to the officials at the City Hall, but to all public officials and departments located in the city, whether state or city.

The Municipal Reference Library furnishes books and information, and compiles statistics and bibliographical and other material, for the Board of Aldermen and other officials. Upon request it solicits information from the governments of other cities concerning their methods and statistics, and compiles the result of the inquiries for the use of officials and departments. It seeks to serve the highest official and the humblest employee with equal courtesy and impersonality. So the equanimity and pleasure maintained in a prolonged investigation for an engineer is courageously assumed also when a janitor wishes to know, in order to settle a controversy, whether or not "the whale chewed Jonah before he swallowed him."

It follows that lines of service cannot be made in public institutions and hence that requests are received from societies, largely civic and political, for information and answers to questions arising as the result of discussions in their meetings, or in conferences of their members. Neces-

sarily, the investigations for these societies have to be subordinated to the needs of city officials, just as the requests for information which other departments of the library receive from all parts of the United States and the world must be subordinated to requests from the city and its metropolitan area.

The inquiries from other cities, from institutions, corporations, chambers of commerce, universities, etc., require much time and attention, and with a very limited staff, it is necessary to attend to them in intervals when there is a lull in important local work. The professor who sent us a questionnaire containing 350 questions did not know the limitations under which 150 of his questions were answered, and that it required two weeks of recorded time, outside of the librarian's official hours, to reply to them. Needless to say the remainder of the questions had to be returned unanswered.

The municipal and special libraries had their origin in the legislative reference library of Wisconsin, which was established with the support of Robert M. La Follette, then governor of the state.

In 1901 the Wisconsin legislature set aside a part of an appropriation of \$1,500 to the Free Library Commission in order to "maintain a library for the legislature and the various state departments." In 1903, an annual appropriation of \$2,500 was made for this library, and in 1905, \$4,500 was annually appropriated and for the first time specific mention was made of the Legislative Reference Library in a legislative act. This library does for the members of the Legislature what the municipal libraries do for municipal councils. For this service, the documents of all libraries in Madison are open, and the cooperation is instant and cheerful.

The first municipal reference library was that of Baltimore, called the Department of Legislative Reference, and established on Jan. 1, 1907. Its combined function is to

serve city and state legislative bodies. It is located in the City Hall. No other municipal reference library renders this double service.

The Municipal Reference Library of Milwaukee was the next, chronologically, in order. It was opened in 1908, and was in reality the first purely municipal reference library, so named and so functioning.

The Municipal Reference Library of New York City was opened on March 31, one and a half years after the opening of the St. Louis Municipal Reference Library. While it is a branch of the New York Public Library, it is supported by the city government, and is located, as are all Municipal Reference Libraries except one, in the Municipal Building.

The Chicago Municipal Reference Library was originally a branch of the Chicago Public Library. Later it was taken over by the city; its organization is now under the control of the city and its staff of nine people are paid by the city.

The other Municipal Reference Libraries located in city halls are those of Cleveland, Ohio, and Portland, Oregon.

Generally their functions are to assist and furnish information to city officials and departmental chiefs; but their services must broaden with time, as the services of the special libraries have done, until hundreds of the great corporations and firms of the East and Chicago, have trained librarians and a library staff. The staff of one bank in New York City has a staff of over 35 and pays its librarian a salary of \$6,000 annually. There are several of these large special corporation libraries, showing that such services are appreciated and valuable.

The cities of Akron, Ohio, and San Francisco, California, also have under consideration the establishment of similar libraries.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK

By

ALICE I. HAZELTINE

Children's Book Week is celebrated this year (1926) from November 7 to 13. For the eighth successive year the American Library Association, the American Booksellers' Association, the Boy Scouts of America and the Associated Publishers are uniting with many other organizations, such as schools, parent-teacher associations, women's clubs, girl scouts and camp-fire girls, to observe the Week in a variety of ways. Last year about 5,000 cities planned and carried out some sort of celebration, with the idea of emphasizing the thought of "MORE BOOKS IN THE HOME."

Stuart Sherman has paid a tribute to Children's Book Week which I would like to quote you. It is called "A Book a Week."

"We think all intelligent people must regard Children's Book Week as good Christians regard a specified Week of Prayer—not as a chance to get a year's duty off one's hands in a week, but as a sort of model or ideal of what every week in the year should be.

"If at just the right moment we present to the child just the right food for his curiosity and eagerness—folklore, fairy tale and fable, song, science, adventure, handicrafts and games, each when the appropriate faculty is unfolding—then we can keep him curious and eager all through his childhood. Nothing better can happen to a child.

"If on the contrary, we provide insufficient reading matter we starve clamorous faculties. If we provide the wrong books, the child can't digest them and his appetite for reading may quickly be ruined. But if we follow the now available expert advice on the care and feeding of the child's mind, we shall find that the average youngster is as well able as an adult to consume a book a week, and we shall find that he thrives on the diet."

Every one who has studied children's interests in reading will agree that Mr. Sherman's argument is sound, and that a child needs at each period of his development the very best books which he is capable of enjoying. This is, first

of all, because he can never again capture the same thrill if he does not have books at the right time. Perhaps this is why some of us grown folks find it impossible to like certain kinds of literature. It may be one reason why some adults do not care for poetry, for example. A child nourished on the imaginative and rhythmical has a far better chance to grow into an adult who perceives the beauty of a poet's lines.

It is sometimes difficult for those of us who have forgotten how it feels to be a child, and who have not kept the power of entering into a child's interests, to understand why a child likes certain things. Present-day child psychology is helping us to do better. It is a safe guess, however, that books which have been liked by many children in many places and in many generations are those with elements of greatness in their own sphere. Schools and libraries are studying this question all the time, but both institutions need, in far greater degree than can be expressed, the everyday help of the home. The teacher and the children's librarian learn to tell very quickly whether or not a child has grown up in a home where books are a part of everyday life, whether or not the mother and father in the home have taken time to tell stories and to read aloud from the best children's literature.

One of the most interesting things about the whole matter is that most children accept and enjoy the best if they are given a chance to do so. This means that from their earliest years they should hear and read the books best suited to their age and comprehension. No public library, no school library, can possibly take the place of a child's own collection of books kept on a shelf or in a bookcase of his own. In the fashion of the slogan, "Add a pearl," one might say, "Add a book," at least for each birthday and for Christmas Day. Even better; suppose that one were to include book-buying in the year's budget, and to set aside a certain amount of money to be spent for the children in

the family according to a regular plan. This is an investment which will pay large dividends in happiness and in the greater appreciation of literature throughout life.

One might begin in this way with such a book as Charles B. Fall's *A B C Book*, which is, perhaps, the most gorgeous pictured alphabet ever published. The colored plates might also be used for a nursery frieze. A little later, when the child has reached the stage when the "Three bears" and the "Three little pigs" are his favorite stories, the one most desirable volume is Leslie Brooke's "Golden goose book," containing these two tales and two others. It is a bit expensive, but since no one else has succeeded so well in picturing these animals with such humor as well as with such artistic excellence, it is well worth the money. Any other books for little children should be chosen to approach as nearly as possible to this standard. It is comparatively easy for mothers to find collections of poems of the past for little children, but some may not know a little volume called "Silver pennies," compiled from the best modern verse by Blanche Thompson. Of course, every child should have a few volumes of the choicest folk-tales which have come down from the past, such as those collected by the Brothers Grimm, and also some of the best modern stories of imagination, such as Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" and W. H. Hudson's "Little boy lost." There should be a place on the shelf for some of the great hero tales, such as Padraic Colum's "Adventures of Odysseus and The tale of Troy"; for a fine treasury of poetry, such as Burton Stevenson's "Home book of verse for young folks"; for a thrilling tale of adventure, such as "The mutineers," by Charles Boardman Hawes; for a fine story for older girls, such as "Master Simon's garden," by Cornelia Meigs; for a biography, such as the "Boy's life of Mark Twain," by his official biographer, Albert Bigelow Paine.

Lists of best books for children's reading may be obtained from many public libraries. One of the best is "Gifts for

children's bookshelves," published by the American Library Association. Invitation is hereby extended to mothers and fathers to visit your Public Library and to consult with the children's librarian there so that she may have your help in helping the children there, and that she may share with you information which will enable you to build for the children in your homes real libraries of real books which will give lasting pleasure to them.

Here in St. Louis during the week of November 7th to 13th there will be an exhibit of children's books in the Delivery Hall of the Public Library, 13th and Olive Streets, with a children's librarian in charge from 2 to 5:30 each afternoon. The Children's Department cordially invites you to visit the exhibit during Children's Book Week, and also to come to the Library at any time to discuss children's books and children's reading.

RADIO THROUGH BOOKS

By

MARY V. ROEMER

"The radio faddist who gains an understanding of how the apparatus operates becomes a devotee of the art," says John V. L. Hogan in his book entitled "The Outline of Radio." He further remarks: "If you are using a radio instrument, but are not quite sure how it works, study the science of radio. If you would like to put a receiver into your home, first find out what to expect of it. If you are merely curious about this new topic of conversation, read a little concerning it. But don't"—he warns—"expect any one book, or any five books, to tell you all there is to know about radio."

In this brief talk I shall attempt to make you acquainted with a few worth-while books on the art of radio. And, even if you do not learn through them all there is to know, they may serve, at least, as an introduction to the larger resources in your Public Library.

"The Outline of Radio," by J. V. L. Hogan, published in 1924, is an excellent introductory book for the general reader and for the amateur. The author is well qualified to write on his subject, for he has long been identified with the development of radio in this country, as engineer, inventor, and technical writer. In the opening chapter a brief historical review tells of the first experiments in recent years. Then follows an explanation of how radio waves are created, how messages are impressed upon these waves, and how they flash through space from sender to receiver. Such questions as these are answered:—"How does the vacuum tube amplify, and which type of amplification is the better—radio-frequency or audio-frequency?" The

concluding chapters sketch the applications of radio as it is used in marine signaling, in military and naval sciences, and its future development in railway communication and in power distribution for industrial purposes.

If you are interested in the historical and romantic development of long-distance communication from the very earliest times, among primitive and ancient peoples, down to the present day, you will find this entertainingly told in Walter Kellogg Tower's "From Beacon Fire to Radio." In this book the development of the modern systems of communication—the telegraph, submarine cable, telephone, and radio, is closely linked with the life stories of the pioneers who have made radio possible.

One of these pioneers, Sir Oliver Lodge, has recently (in 1925) published a book entitled "Talks about Wireless," in which he tells, in a delightful style, of his own investigations which have played an important part in the development of radio. In other chapters he discusses details which make for efficiency in radio, and tells how to make simple calculations.

Perhaps you are especially interested in radio transmission. A book which presents a full explanation of the principles of transmission is the United States Navy's "Radio Manual" of 1926. Explicit directions for the construction and operation of transmitting sets are fully covered in "Radio Telephony for Amateurs," by Stuart Ballantine. Various types of transmitters—arc, vacuum and spark transmitters—are discussed in Admiral S. S. Robinson's very complete "Manual of Radio Telegraphy and Telephony," published in 1924.

Radio reception is discussed also in Robinson's Manual. A book which presents the subject of radio reception more simply, however,—one which the practical man can easily understand—is James A. Moyer and John F. Wostrel's "Practical Radio," published first in 1924 and reissued in 1926. For the "fan" who prefers to buy his receiving set,

the qualities most to be desired in a set are explained; while for him who would construct his own apparatus, working drawings are given for several popular sets. All of these sets have actually been constructed, the authors say, and consequently the data given are exact and dependable. Details are given for the construction of the following apparatus:—(1) Crystal receiver; (2) Single-tube regenerative receiver; (3) Two-stage audio-frequency amplifier; (4) Two-stage radio-frequency amplifier; (5) Single-tube receiver and crystal detector; (6) Four-tube reflex receiver with crystal detector; (7) Three-tube neutrodyne receiver, and (8) Six-tube super-heterodyne. The first four sets are designed in such a way that the experimenter can begin with a simple crystal set, according to the authors, and add to it as opportunity affords until the experimenter has a five-tube receiving set in which all the apparatus from the previous receivers is used. Instructions are given for testing, and a chart on radio troubles, similar to the trouble-charts used in books on automobile operation, shows the probable cause of the trouble and its remedy. Direction-finding, directional distortion caused by buildings and other structures, super-power broadcasting stations and their effects on distance, fading, interference, static, and the practical methods of reactivation of vacuum-tubes are explained in full.

For those who are meeting with difficulties in construction or operation, W. V. Roberts' "How Radio Receivers Work," published in 1925, offers brief, yet capable and instructive explanations.

Some of the most up-to-date material on radio construction and operation is to be found in periodical literature. Use periodical indexes in your library to help you solve your problem. Articles are grouped by subject, and the following publications are indexed: *Radio News*, *Radio Broadcast*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Journal of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers*, *Proceedings of the Institute of Radio En-*

gineers, and the publications of the United States government of the state experiment-stations.

A word concerning the publications of the government may be of interest. The Bureau of Navigation publishes lists of amateur and commercial stations, with their call-numbers, location, ownership, and other information, and also publishes the laws governing radio communication in the United States. The Signal Office has just put out "The Principles and Practice of Radio Communication," and among the latest publications issued by the Standards Bureau is "Safety Rules for Radio Installation," taken from the fourth edition of the "National Electrical Safety Code."

Two very highly technical books are John Scott Taggart's "Thermionic Tubes" and H. J. Van der Bijl's "Thermionic Vacuum-Tubes."

In conclusion, I would call your attention to two fascinating books on radio-broadcasting. One, written by Samuel L. Rothafel and Raymond Francis Yates, is entitled "Broadcasting: Its new Day" and was published in 1925. It is a thoughtful and critical presentation of the achievements of radio and its development and place in the future. Would you know how a theatrical production is broadcast? Then go behind the scenes in this book with Miss Bertha Bramard of the staff of WJY and WJZ. There observe and listen as she puts a musical comedy on the air. In part she says:

"As the play proceeds, many funny events take place. Sometimes the manager requests us not to let the girls listen (to their play) with their head-phones, for they become so engrossed that they miss their cues. At one production the entire stage-crew went across the street from the theatre to hear their own play on a receiving set located there; they were having such a good time that they failed to reappear in time to strike the set for the next act. (At another production) a chorus girl . . . insisted on shouting, Hello, Mamal into the microphone as she danced across in front of it, when that transmitter was closed and only the orchestra, playing in full blast, was being broadcast. Another young lady almost wrecked our entire performance; hearing her cue through the headphones she was wearing and forgetting to remove them, she endeavored to dance on with the phones tied to the amplifier."

In another chapter of "Broadcasting: Its New Day," radio and the future of America's commerce is discussed.

The authors see in the centering of radio communication in the United States an opportunity to give this country a leading position in the affairs of the world, which she did not possess when communication by cables, passing through or terminating in foreign countries, provided the most rapid method of transacting business with peoples across the seas.

"A thing may be a marvelous invention and still as dull as ditch water," says Heywood Brown in his introduction to "You're on the Air," a book by that prince of broadcasters, Graham McNamee. "But McNamee has given life to radio," says Brown, "he has been able to use a new medium of expression so as to transmit himself vividly, in a sense of movement and feeling." Thus McNamee has justified the whole art of radio broadcasting. If you have not already enjoyed this book as it appeared in periodical pages, obtain a copy now. You will not find the base-ball game of 1926 described in it, but that of 1925 is almost as exciting. You will live over again, from a broadcaster's viewpoint, the Greb-Wilson bout, the political conventions of 1924, the inauguration of a president of the United States, and you will meet the great speakers and artists as they "go on the air" from the studios of WEAf.

THE ART DEPARTMENT

By

ANTOINETTE DOUGLAS

Following the modern trend towards specialization, the St. Louis Public Library instituted a separate department, occupying one of the largest rooms in the central building, to house the varied collection of an art library.

When one thinks of a library, one may naturally enough call to mind the idea of books, and more books, and nothing but books. As a matter of fact, books form a part of the collection of an art department. To be sure, they are the most important feature; but I am going to tell you of the other things which must accompany the books.

Art is a word which many people look on in too narrow and specific a sense. Thinking of art books calls to their mind histories of art, rather dull ones at that, which they remember at school, or the old fashioned, expensive ponderous, parlor-table art books filled perhaps with steel engravings of sentimental subjects.

The books in a modern art library cover a wide field to meet the need of a varied class of the public, all interested in art in one or more of its expressions. There are, of course, the histories of art—many of them, not only in English but in French and German as well. Also histories of architecture and painting and sculpture. So much for the fine arts. Then there are the minor arts and crafts. For every person who is concerned with the history of architecture there are many more who are looking for plans for a log cabin or a stucco bungalow. For every person wanting histories of painting there are many more who want designs for batik scarfs, suggestions for Christmas cards and conventional designs for China painting. To give

other instances of the popular quality of the work, there are many more books on the building of modern small houses than there are histories of the great periods of architecture, just as there are many collections of designs of rugs, silks, wall-papers and laces to every history of painting, and more books on crafts, such as linoleum and wood-block printing, book-plate designing and show-card writing than there are histories of engraving.

There are literally scores of art magazines. Our art department subscribes regularly to nearly a hundred. Many people who never look at a book in the Art Room come regularly to see their favorite music periodical, or one of the magazines devoted to the collecting of antiques, or to look over the magazines of photography.

There are various general art magazines, like *The American Magazine of Art*, *The International Studio* and *Arts and Decoration*. There are, as well, art magazines from England and France, Germany, Italy and Spain. These are the current art histories of the day.

For architects and those interested in building, there are a dozen periodicals devoted to architecture. There are depicted modern apartments, office buildings and theaters, as well as bungalow plans, the present craze for the Spanish in Florida and California, and the work of the foremost architects of the day.

There are also half a dozen photography magazines for both the professional and the amateur, and quite a number of music magazines. In *Musical America*, or in *The Musical Digest*, for instance, events of the musical world are chronicled weekly—the premiere of an opera at the Metropolitan, a brief write-up of a modern composer, valuable articles on the music of their countries, and a constant keeping up with the events of the musical centers of the world.

It is simple enough to pick up copies of the general magazines at any news-stand. But in the case of art magazines these are not found here, there and everywhere. More-

over, they are likely to be expensive. And if one does not, or cannot afford to subscribe for them, the Art Room may provide the only opportunity of seeing them, and, moreover, offers the chance for pleasant hours of loafing.

Magazines are tremendously valuable things. In many cases, after volumes are complete they are bound and serve as necessary reference works. And separate numbers are taken to pieces and clipped, and go into the mass of material that makes up the files of an art department. There are many calls which books can never satisfy. When a new enthusiasm is on the boom, books could not be published quickly enough. For instance, what books could ever have provided the hundreds of pictures of ships which have been in such constant demand during the past year, owing to the ship-model fad and the popularity of ships for the decoration of lamps, book-plates and what not? To get these pictures together we have had to watch for magazine covers, calendars, advertisements, newspaper illustrations and the pictures in old travel magazines. By cutting these out and pasting them on manila mounts we have been able to help many ship enthusiasts.

In the same way collections have been made of thousands of other illustrations—picture copy as the advertising men call it. There are certain demands that can be counted on as definitely as the rising sun—requests for pictures of parrots, the Statue of Liberty, Puritan costumes and Indians. And the duty of the Art Department is to keep watch for such illustrations—to classify and file them, ready to be brought out at a moment's notice.

Not only for pictures are newspapers and old magazines useful. The obituary of a sculptor, a striking cartoon, an article on the work of a new composer, or stage designer, suggestions for painted furniture, or tersely written articles on early American glass—all may help to satisfy a call when information in books would not be available.

A constant and natural request is for reproductions of famous pictures—the work of the moderns as well as the

old masters. The library has a collection of several thousand prints and photographs, many of them in color, which are used particularly by clubs and teachers.

Still another feature of the Art Department is its collection of lantern slides, which is coming into greater use each year as the collection grows. There are now about 8,000 of these slides and the number is being added to each year. A large section of slides is on travel subjects, Arctic exploration, for instance, European countries, slides of London, Paris, Venice and Rome. Also there are many slides of our own country—New England, the Rocky Mountains, St. Louis, the Missouri State Capitol and its famous decorations.

There are also many hundreds of slides of reproductions of famous pictures, slides illustrative of the life of Christ, a good though small collection of colored slides of birds, slides of rugs, stained glass, and other crafts. These are used by teachers, clubpeople, ministers and other lecturers, and frequently just for the entertainment of individuals who have their own lanterns.

In the daily work of the Art Department of the Public Library is reflected much of the life of the city, both in its work and in its play. If a theater or movie house is to be decorated, the artist more frequently than not comes to the Art Department for inspiration and ideas. If a foreign Queen is visiting the city, the coat of Arms of her country and the costume of her people is in demand for the decoration connected with her entertainment.

If a pageant is given or a costume ball is taking place, those who are taking part come to the Art Department for costume suggestions and stage settings.

Frequently a walk down the main business streets of the city will show tangible evidence of the different calls that come to an art library—a dragon used in an advertisement, a window trim, the device used by a new restaurant, a bit of furniture made from designs out of the period-furniture books, a cafe's new menu-card.

This brings me back in closing to the suggestion at the beginning of this talk, that the art work of the library is popular in its scope. It is not art in any narrow or specific sense. In fact the art library should have its finger in all pies, as in one or more of its phases it is related to practically everything that is going on in its community.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN MISSOURI

By

CHARLES H. COMPTON

Very few realize how typically American the Public Library is. A saying of that robust American, Theodore Roosevelt, may help you to realize this:

"After the church and the school, the free public library is the most effective influence for good in America."

I also want to quote from something that William Allen White, one of the leading publicists of America, recently said:

"The public library is America's continuation school. It is the most democratic of American educational institutions."

Of course, we have had libraries for hundreds and even thousands of years, but the idea of an institution for a free and wide distribution of books, so that books might be available to every man, woman and child of America, is an idea which has been put into effect for only slightly more than fifty years. The American public library is attracting world-wide attention. In 1925 Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, went to China at the invitation of the Chinese Association for the Advancement of Education, and traveled widely there, speaking to educated and progressive Chinese who were eager to adopt American library methods. Students from many European countries come to American library schools. We have three foreign students in our own St. Louis Library School, one from Norway, one from Holland, and one from Mexico.

I am giving you in brief this very general survey in order that we may be able to decide whether Missouri as a state is keeping abreast in the public library movement. We have had public libraries in Missouri for over sixty years, and I want to make it quite clear that there are just as

good public libraries, in both small communities and large, in Missouri as anywhere in the United States. However, it remains to be said that, according to a survey made by the American Library Association in 1926, there are nearly two million people in Missouri without public library facilities, except for the limited service which the Missouri Library Commission can give them. It is an appalling fact that today in Missouri 82 of the 114 counties have no tax-supported public libraries within their borders. We hear a great deal of discussion nowadays about why young men and women will not stay on the farm as they come to maturity. The reason in part, of course, is economic, and also in part depends on social conditions and life on the farm. Is there any reason why children, and adults as well, should not have the full advantage of recreation and education which the public library is now bringing to people in cities? In some states a plan has been worked out and carried into effect which has brought book-service to the people in rural districts at a very small cost per capita. This is called the "county library plan," and has proved especially successful in California, but also in many other states there are flourishing county libraries. Says the American Library Association's Committee on Library Extension:

"Occupying a strategic position in the rural public library field, similar to that of the consolidated school in education, is the county library, which is steadily gaining ground as a larger unit type of service. The county unit makes for economy and effectiveness without loss of the personal touch. The good county library has a large book stock and has worked out flexible methods of distribution to overcome obstacles of distance and isolation through a system of branches, stations, school deposits, mail service and possibly a book truck. It puts any book, anywhere in the system, at the disposal of a serious reader wherever he may live. Best of all, it commands the services of a capable librarian who visits each community and knows its needs, works with and through other county leaders and organizations, as the county agent, superintendent of schools, county nurse, the Farm Bureau or Grange, the Parent-Teacher Association. Schools are given adequate book service, small village libraries have larger resources as county branches, or through other arrangements and can still use local interest and initiative. Thus the scattered rural folk receive a high grade of library service, comparable to that of the large city library.

"Laws permitting counties to provide county library service have been enacted in 31 states and the territory of Hawaii."

Missouri has on its statute books a county-library law, but no actual county libraries, although two public libraries are giving county-library service. The Missouri Library Commission at Jefferson City, which is the state's agency for giving aid to communities wishing to establish libraries, stands ready to give advice and practical help to the first county to establish a county library in Missouri. A word should be said in regard to the Missouri Library Commission. The Commission was established in 1907 by an act of the Legislature of that year, specifying its principle functions as follows: giving encouragement, information, advice and assistance in the founding of new public libraries, keeping in touch with all the public libraries of the state and rendering them such assistance as might be possible in their growth and development, and the building up of a library at Jefferson City for the purpose of circulating books to citizens in all parts of the state which lack local public library service, with no charges to borrowers except for transportation on the books. Until county libraries can be established throughout the state, the Library Commission will continue to circulate books to communities, schools and individuals. This kind of service means a group of fifty to seventy-five books in rural schools, rural churches, farm club rooms and community buildings, as well as package service to individuals, of the latest books of fiction and non-fiction. Nearly 3,000 shipments were made in 1925 and the indications are that this year there will be an increase of at least fifteen per cent. Unfortunately many requests have had to be refused because of an inadequate book supply.

The appropriation which the Commission will ask the Legislature for 1927-1928 will be \$40,000, which is an increase of \$18,000 over the previous two years.* A study of appropriations made by Legislatures of neighboring states to their commissions would show that Missouri has been niggardly in her appropriations for the Commission work.

For example, Nebraska, with a population of slightly more than one-third of that of Missouri, received for the last annual period an appropriation of twenty-five per cent. more than the Missouri Commission. During the first ten months of the current year the circulation of books has increased more than 30 per cent. over the figures for the same months last year and it is expected that the record for the complete year will indicate at least 160,000 rural Missourians served with the Commission's books. These, however, are a minor fraction of the nearly 2,000,000 citizens of our state who have no local public libraries in their own communities and who have a right to ask that the Commission amplify and extend its service so as to include them all. That the 27,000 books in the Commission's library are inadequate to meet the demands made upon them is shown by the fact that it was necessary to refuse 300 schools out of 600 making requests for books. The circulation in the past five years has doubled and the appropriation has actually decreased. The last few years have seen an awakening of interest throughout the state in establishing public libraries and many requests for advice and help have had to be refused because of insufficient funds for traveling expenses and the lack of a field worker.

* The actual appropriation was \$28,100, afterward cut by the Governor to \$21,500 because of insufficient state funds.

A SURVEY OF LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED STATES

By
ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK

The day is past when we set out to do things without understanding something about our raw material and our tools. Work nowadays must depend on accurate knowledge of facts. The man who wants to change a law, for instance, must know all about the law as it stands; whether it is generally observed and what its results have been. This is the only way in which he can intelligently work for a change. This is the reason why we are making so-called "surveys" in all sorts of fields. These surveys are merely attempts to ascertain existing facts—as many of them as possible and as accurately as possible. Such attempts are like turning on the electric light in the place where one is to work, instead of trying to do the work in the dark.

One of the latest of these surveys is just coming to a close in the city of St. Louis. It has been carried on by the American Library Association, which is the national professional body of library workers, through a committee of which your present speaker has been chairman, and its object has been to find out as thoroughly and exactly as possible present facts and methods affecting American libraries and to assemble these facts and publish them in readable form for the information of all those who are interested. The Survey has been financed by the Carnegie Corporation and with its aid, a staff of experts has been assembled in quarters kindly furnished by the St. Louis Public Library Board and put to work under the able direction of Mr. C. Seymour Thompson, a librarian and editor of wide experience, who left his position at the head of the Savannah Pub-

lic Library to take charge of this investigation. The facts were ascertained by means of a formidable list of several thousand questions sent out to all the libraries, and it has taken two years to arrange and discuss replies. The results will appear in a series of four volumes, of which two have already been issued while the others will be in print before mid-summer.

Answers to all sorts of questions that it would have been impossible to obtain two years ago without writing thousands of letters may be easily read in this series of volumes. Who, for instance, could tell offhand who selects the books in the average public library? Is it the librarian, or one of his subordinates, or a committee, or some other person or body? We learn from the first volumes of the Survey report that the larger the library, the more general the practice of allowing the librarian to make the selection. He does so in about 65 per cent. of the libraries of more than 100,000 volumes; in about 54 per cent. of the libraries from 50,000 to 100,000 volumes, but in only about 49 per cent. in libraries of from 20,000 to 50,000 volumes. In most of the small libraries book selection is very considerably exercised by trustees, either collectively or through committees. Had an expert librarian been asked about this two years ago, the only answer that he could have given would have been that no one knew anything about it.

Another interesting bit of information in this volume relates to the certification of librarians. Seven states now refuse to allow the employment of a librarian in specified positions unless she has received a certificate similar to those now required of teachers. In four other states voluntary systems of certification are in force, serving to indicate to the different libraries the ability of persons to perform library work.

How do public libraries charge the books that borrowers take out? Every library user knows something of the charging system of the library that he uses, but he would

find it hard to say whether this is the rule or the exception throughout the country. We find from the Survey that more than 86 per cent. of the public libraries reporting use a single charging system, which is called the "Newark System" after the city in whose library it originated—Newark, New Jersey.

What do libraries do when a borrower contract a contagious disease? In most of the larger cities, we learn from the Survey, the library is notified regularly by the health office of the existence and location of contagion. When a library learns where there is a contagious disease, it usually sends a notice directing the householder how to dispose of library books in his possession. What is done with these books depends largely on the health department of the city in question. In some, all such books are destroyed; in other distinction is made between communicable and other diseases, and in others, all books are disinfected and returned to the library. Some libraries undertake the work of disinfection themselves, and some destroy all books that have been exposed to contagion. Apparently, however, fumigation is considered of less importance than formerly, and there is considered to be practically no danger of the spread of communicable diseases from a book.

Are all the books in a public library given out free of charge? Apparently not, for two-thirds of the larger libraries and about half of the smaller reported to the Survey that they maintain rental collections, in which one must pay to take out a book. Some libraries report that these collections have been unpopular and have been dropped; in others, they are successful and apparently the borrowers like to use them.

During what days and hours are public libraries open? Among large libraries, over 60 per cent. keep the adult departments of their central buildings open daily for twelve hours. In the smaller libraries, the hours tend to become shorter and of libraries having less than 20,000 volumes only about 10 per cent. are open daily. Some libraries of

this class are open only two hours a week. On the other hand, a considerable number of the larger libraries are open for more than twelve hours. Thirteen hours seems to be usual, but of these, the last hour is for reading and reference only—not for circulation.

An interesting set of facts is that relating to the work done by libraries in giving information by letter and telephone. This kind of service has become so popular that many libraries report that they have been obliged to limit it. St. Louis will not guarantee to devote more than half an hour to a single question, although it often does give more time. San Diego will not do more than two pages of copying without making a charge. Watertown, Mass., reports that it will not spend more than twenty minutes on a question. Large libraries frequently "pass the buck" by referring inquirers to some other library or to some individual who will be able to tell them what they want to know. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh reports that "In general, we make a careful search for any definite information requested, but any broad investigation or study of a subject must be made by the reader himself."

In view of these facts, those who wish special information are advised not to hesitate to inquire of the nearest public library by letter or telephone and to abide by the result—whatever that may be.

It will be news to most persons that college libraries are in some cases acting as public libraries by contract with the municipal government for the towns in which they are situated. In Durham, New Hampshire, the state university, the public library and the local library association consolidated twenty years ago and erected a building in which there is a library that serves all three. The college library at Oberlin, Ohio, also serves the town of Oberlin under contract with the authorities. In Iowa, a state law permits colleges and college towns to cooperate in the maintenance of public libraries.

These are only a few of the thousands of subjects on which the Library Survey has collected interesting and valuable information. It will be noted that this is simply an attempt to collect facts. The committee in charge has positively refrained from commenting on these facts and from concluding that any one of the methods used is better or more desirable than any other. In some cases, the reader will draw his own conclusions, but one cannot always do this, because it is quite probable that some method used by a small minority may be better adapted to the conditions where it is used than that adopted by the majority. At any rate, those who are interested in libraries have now an opportunity of finding out precisely what they are doing and how they are doing it, for the first time in library history.

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